

ART. XIV.—*A new Australian Stone-making Fungus.*

LACCOCEPHALUM BASILAPILOIDES, McAlp. and Tepp.

(Plate X.).

By D. McALPINE and J. G. O. TEPPER, F.L.S.

[Read 12th July, 1894.]

This species of fungus belonging to the *Polyporaceæ* does not appear referable to any of the known genera of that order. It differs from *Boletus* in the tubes of the hymenophore not being separable from the sporophore and from *Strobilomyces* in the pileus not being scaly; from central-stemmed species of *Polyporus* in the promiscuously and peculiarly pitted pileus, as well as in being always hard and woody, and from *Polystictus* by the absence of zones on the pileus. It is peculiar in forming large stony nodules at its base.

Genus LACCOCEPHALUM, McAlp.

Sporophore pileate, pitted, stem central; hymenophore inferior, consisting of closely-packed, parallel, cylindrical tubes, distinctly differentiated, but not separable, from sporophore; openings of tubes sub-rotund or oval; hymenium lining the cavities of the tubes, spores large, spherical, coloured.

This genus differs from *Polyporus*, to which it seems most nearly allied, in being hard and woody from the first, in the peculiarly pitted pileus and in the character of the spores. Name from the characteristic pitted surface of the pileus—*λακκος*, a pit and *κεφαλη*, the head.

Laccocephalum basilapiloides, McAlp. and Tepp.

Solitary. Pileus woody, irregularly concave in the middle, remainder convex (concavo-convex), $3\frac{1}{4}$ – $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. in dia., about $\frac{5}{8}$ in. in thickest part, brownish fawn, surface pitted, pits in the middle relatively small, conical, irregularly scattered, surrounding

rows much larger, ovate to elliptical, deepest on the inner end; circumference sub-circular, broad marginal zone smooth, undulate, not pitted promiscuously or sometimes in some parts irregularly; ridges of pits and margin of pileus coffee-colour, the latter deeper in colour because thicker; inner substance of pileus thick, whitish, unchangeable. Hymenophore greyish-fawn to reddish-brown, solid, continuous with stem; tubes adnate, averaging one line in depth, slightly contracting towards opening; pores moderately large, crowded, unequal, sub-rotund to oval; spores spherical, orange-yellow, echinulate, 44-50 in. in dia.; spines conical, acute, 3 in. long. Stem compressed oval, $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ in. in dia.; length from basal collar to hymenophore

protuberances, and shows in the figured specimen also fragments of roots and the vestiges of an ant tunnel. The underside is only slightly convex, the abraded surface allowing the threads of the profuse mycelium to be detected; it appears similarly to other specimens, to be much less impregnated internally by ferruginous matter than externally. The figured specimen described above was obtained through Mr. A. Molineux, F.L.S. (Secretary of the S. A. Agricultural Bureau), from the south-eastern border of S. Australia, and reported as having been found in typical mallee scrub. The mycelium forms the large permanent stony base, and apparently induces the oxide of iron contained in the soil to bind the mass (from the surface inwardly into a solid nodule. Such stony nodules have been brought to the notice of one of us (Mr. Tepper) on various occasions, by persons meeting them in clearing arenaceous mallee lands. One of an almost regularly oval-shape was obtained near Ardrossan, in Yorke's Peninsula,

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ERRATA.

On page 167, in the tenth line from the top, for 44-50 in. read 44-50 μ ,
and, in the eleventh line from the top, for 3 in. read 3 μ .

On page 168, in the seventh line from the top, for Herotes read Xerotes.

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